

HISTORIC STRUCTURE REPORT

STENTON PRIVY
18TH AND WINDRIM STREETS
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

FOR

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE COLONIAL DAMES OF AMERICA
IN THE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

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INTRODUCTION

This report is intended to establish the physical history of the Stenton Mansion privy.

The outhouse is a part of the existing mansion complex. Though a small building, the privy's physical fabric gives us additional information that expands our understanding of the use of the mansion by the Logan family and suggests missing relationships between the main house and the courtyard. The configuration of the courtyard and the other surrounding yards have been through numerous transformations. Archaeological investigations have uncovered foundation walls north of the privy bordering the courtyard. The analysis of the privy therefore becomes significant in establishing the course of subsequent investigations which may indeed clarify the early history of the building complex and its landscape.

The characteristics of the original privy and the alterations following are identified in this report, not only in an attempt to further explain the early use of the Stenton complex, but to aid in the potential restoration of the privy itself. As a remaining part of the complex, the privy plays a valuable role that should not be dismissed. Its restoration would provide yet another educational feature to this magnificent American landmark.

I. Existing Conditions

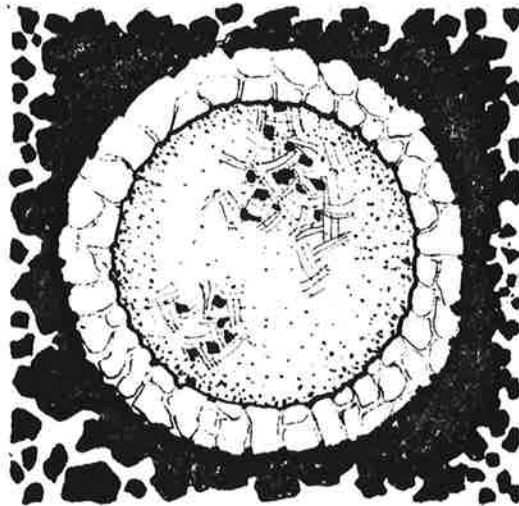
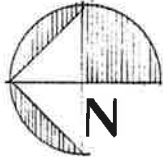
The Privy Pit

The pit of the privy was archaeologically investigated by Dr. Barbara Liggett in 1983. The dry-laid stone enclosure was excavated and found to be approximately 18 feet deep. After the pit contents were analyzed and the features extracted, the hole was backfilled, leaving the soil surface in the pit 7 feet below grade. Drawing 1 represents the stone construction in plan at levels more than 4 feet below existing grade. The pit opening measures an average of 75 inches in diameter.

Although appearing to be uniform in plan at elevations minus 4 feet and below, a brick vault in the upper 4 feet of the pit spans the opening capping off approximately half of it. Drawing 2 shows a cutaway view of the vault over the pit. A hewn bow-shaped beam and cedar planks were integrated with the original stone wall construction at the top of the cylinder to provide formwork for the brick vault to be laid above (see Photographs 1 and 2). The chalk rubbing on the underneath side of one of the cedar planks displays the utilization of a sash-sawn milling process.

STENTON privy

PLAN SCALE = $\frac{1}{4}" = 1'-0"$



INSIDE PIT DIAMETER = 75"

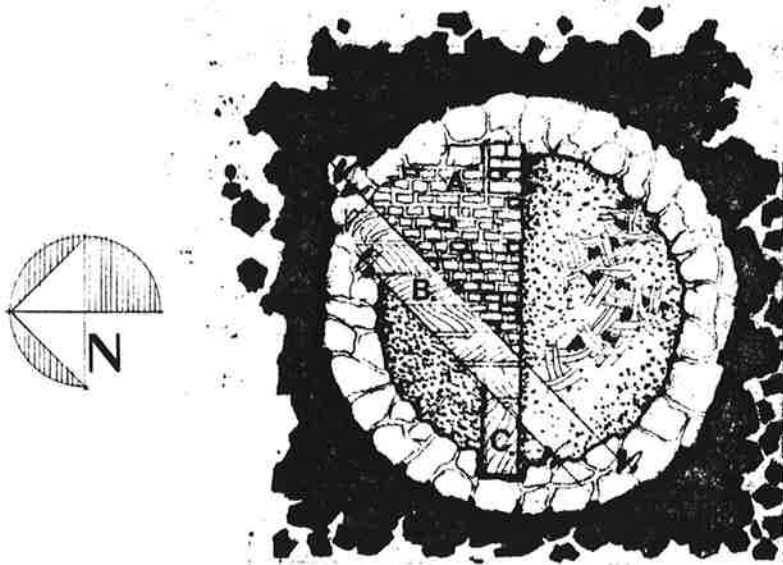
This plan shows the privy pit's construction at levels more than four feet below grade.

Drawing 1



STENTON privy

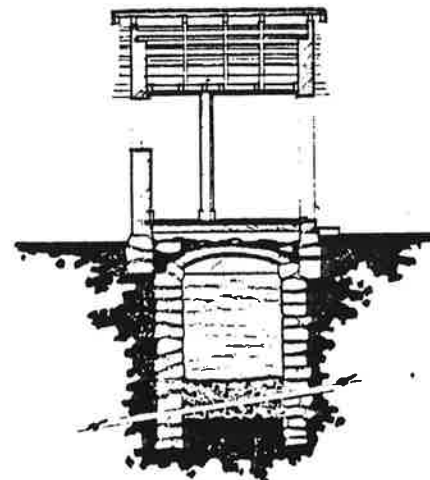
CUT AWAY PLAN SCALE: $\frac{1}{4}'' = 1'-0''$

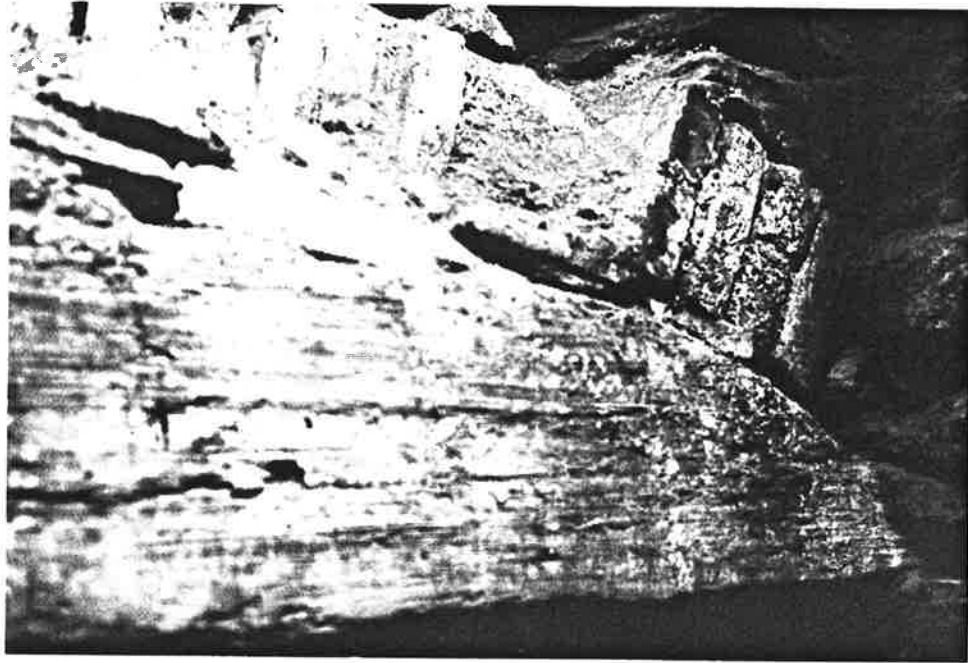


- A. BRICK VAULT
- B. CEDAR 1" x 6" VAULT FORMWORK
- C. HEWN VAULT SUPPORT BEAM

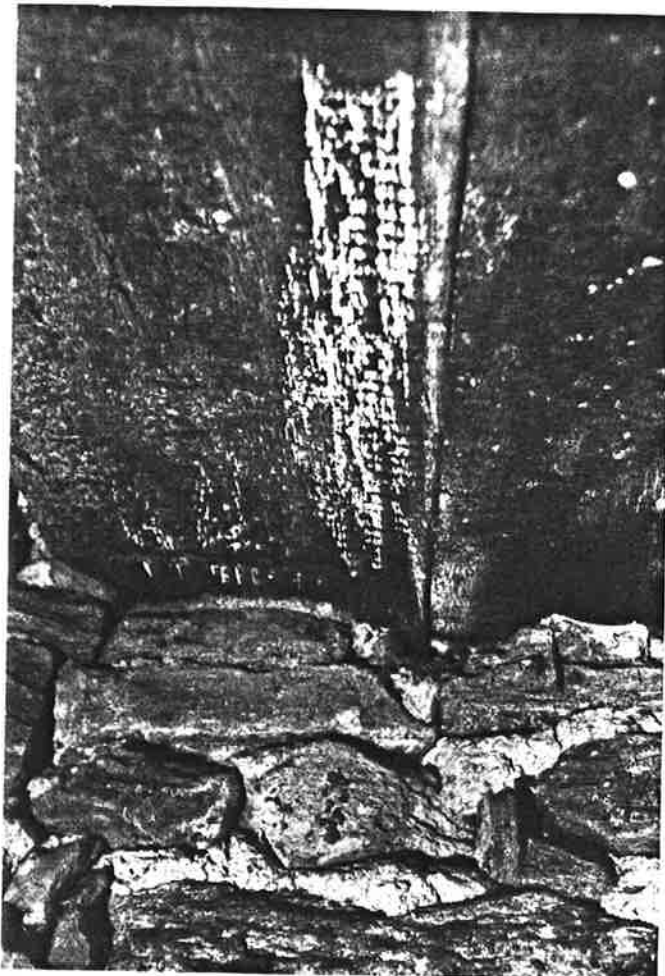
This cutaway plan shows the vault construction 3 feet below grade. The vault closes approximately one-half of the pit opening.

Drawing 2





Photograph 1
Bow-shaped Hewn Beam Pocketed into the Pit's Stonework



Photograph 2
Cedar Plank Formwork

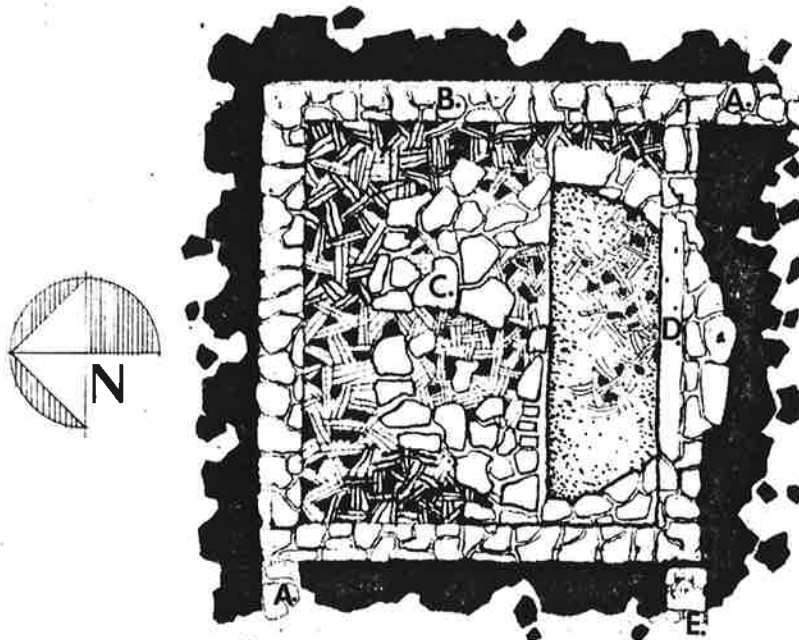
The Privy Foundation Walls (Drawing 3)

The southeast and northeast corners of the privy's foundation are visible above grade. The stonework of the north and east and the south and east is integral at the corners where the foundation walls meet (Photograph 3). It appears, above grade, that the foundations and the brick walls were constructed in a single phase. After reviewing archaeological records of the privy and doing some investigation of the subsurface conditions of our own, the foundation system discovered was more complicated than suggested above.

In the archaeological investigation the east foundation was discovered to be part of a continuous foundation wall system extending into the foreyard of the main house. In our study of the subsurface foundation conditions at the northwest corner, a stone wall was discovered approximately 16" below grade, serving as part of the privy's north wall foundation and continuing west toward the main house (Photograph 4). The two lower foundation walls apparently are part of the same earlier wall; whether this was a garden or building foundation wall is difficult to say but because of the depth of the foundations below grade, we do know the grade level was approximately 16 inches lower. The brick water table on the privy's west and south walls stops at existing grade which indicates the brick walls were built after the ground level had been increased over the earlier stone walls. The lower wall must therefore have originally served as an old building wall or garden wall foundation and later, some

'STENTON privy

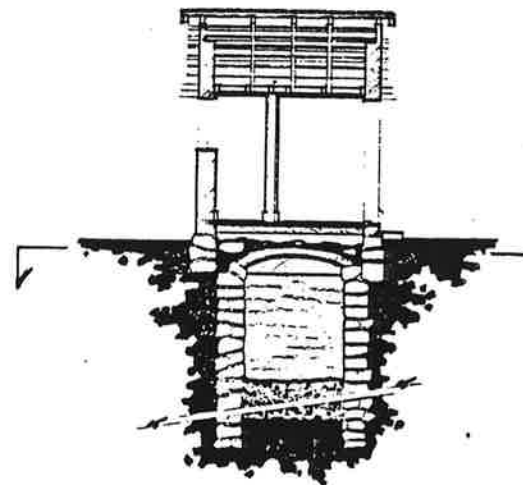
PLAN SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



- A. INTEGRATED FOUNDATION WALLS
- B. PRIVY FOUNDATION WALL
- C. RUBBLE ON TOP OF VAULT
- D. STONE LINTEL
- E. BRICK GARDEN WALL FOUNDATION

This plan depicts the stone foundation of the privy in relationship to the pit and associated foundation walls.

Drawing 3





Photograph 3

Foundation Stonework at the
Southeast Corner

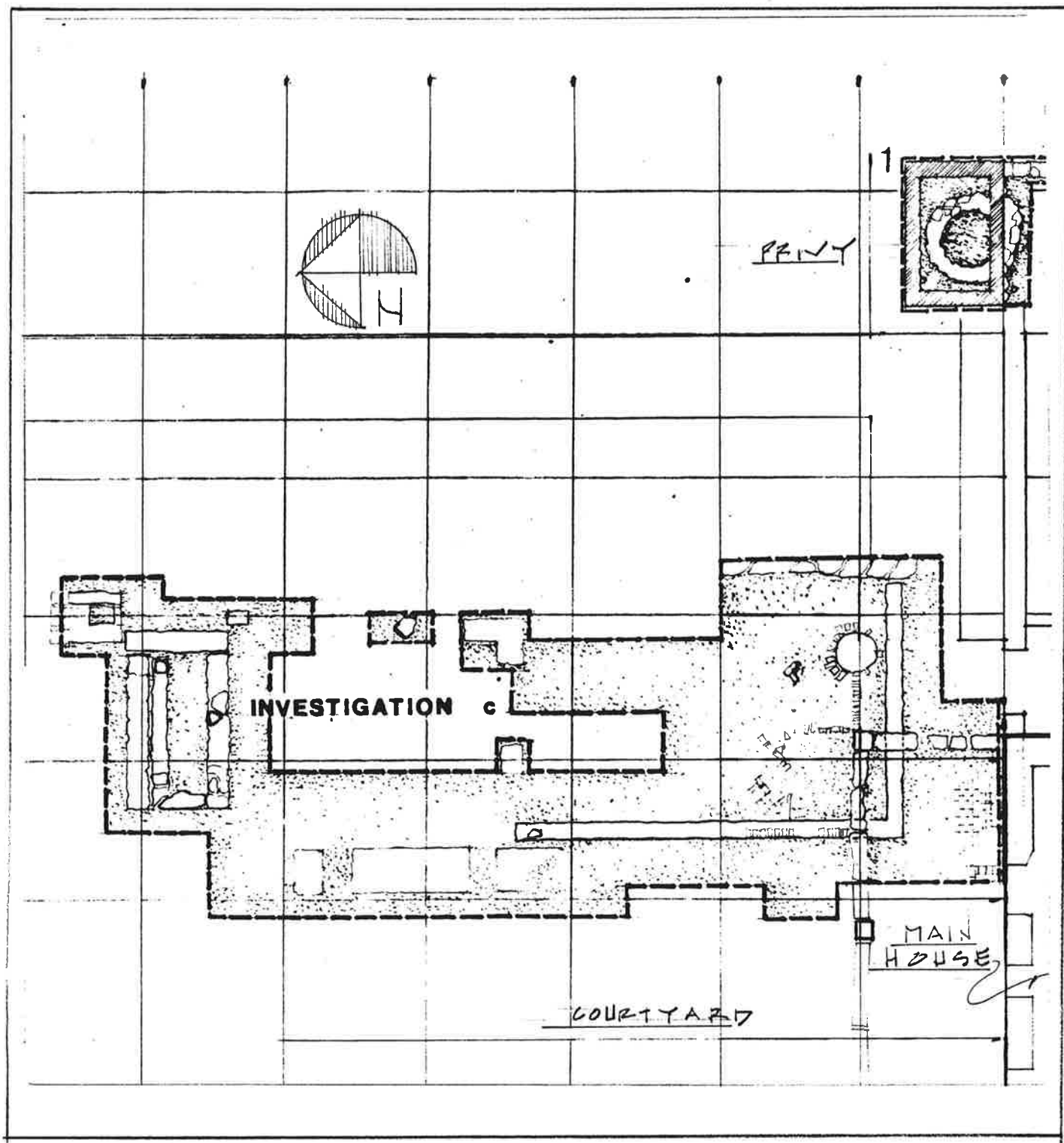


Photograph 4

Subsurface Foundation
Wall Discovered at
Northwest Corner

time after the wall above was removed been used as the base for the privy's north and east foundation walls. Archaeological research completed in 1983 by Dr. Liggett indicated previous buildings or garden walls were located on the east boundary of the courtyard (Drawing 4). Reed Engle, in the Stenton Mansion Historic Structure Report, recorded the corresponding foundation relationships at the southeast corner of the piazza in section and plan (Drawings 5 and 6). When the privy foundation walls are compared the early stone wall under the privy closely matches the earliest under the piazza foundation in elevation and alignment. The privy's upper foundation walls correspond in elevation with the intermediate piazza paving area. One might think the grade around the privy would have been increased dramatically above the piazza grade level when the pit was dug, invalidating the comparison between the latter. Although this is a possibility, the resulting slope of the land would have not only been awkward in appearance but drained the yard toward the house. The placement of the excess dirt was more likely strategically distributed to create both an even grade in what was probably the northeast corner of a garden and along the circulation to and from the house. This would then explain some of the rise in the surface of the piazza.

From the inside of the pit the overlap of the privy's foundation and the pit was determined. The pit is not centered underneath the building shell from north to south so the bench above may be against the south wall and centered over the pit. A schist lintel supports the south wall where the wall overhangs the pit. The pit is not centered under the shelter from east to



Drawing 4

Taken from Stenton Mansion Archaeological
Summary Drawing. Information based on field
notes. Courtesy of Dr. Barbara Liggett.

west. The privy foundations are slightly shifted east of center here. Although this relationship is not pure geometrically, it would not prevent the positioning of bench openings all along the south wall.

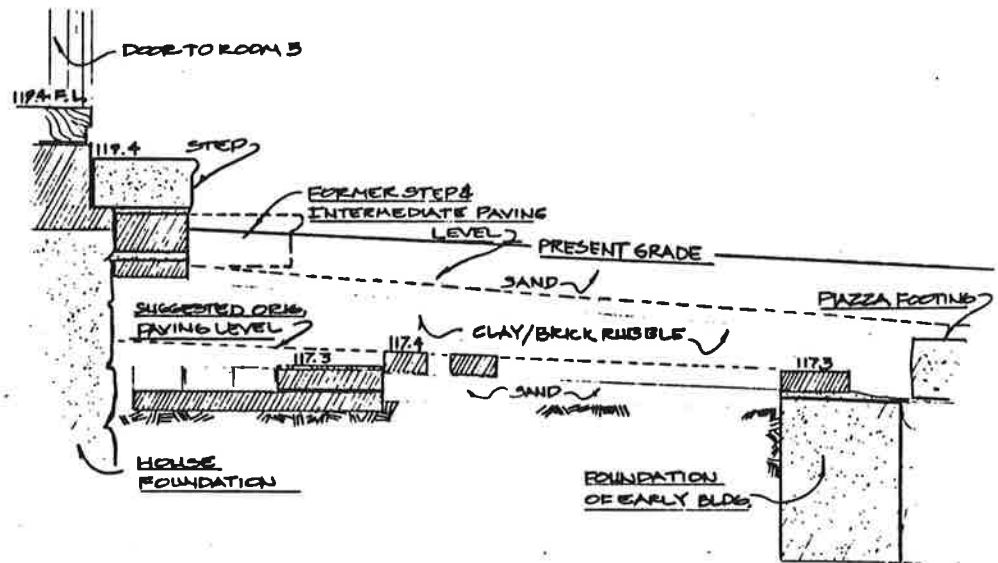


Illustration #8

Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"

Section through piazza north of east (north elevation) door.

Drawing 5

Illustration Taken from the
Stenton Mansion Historic Structure Report

This section points out the foundation of the early building which appears in grade elevation and alignment to be the same as the foundation base found under the privy's north wall.

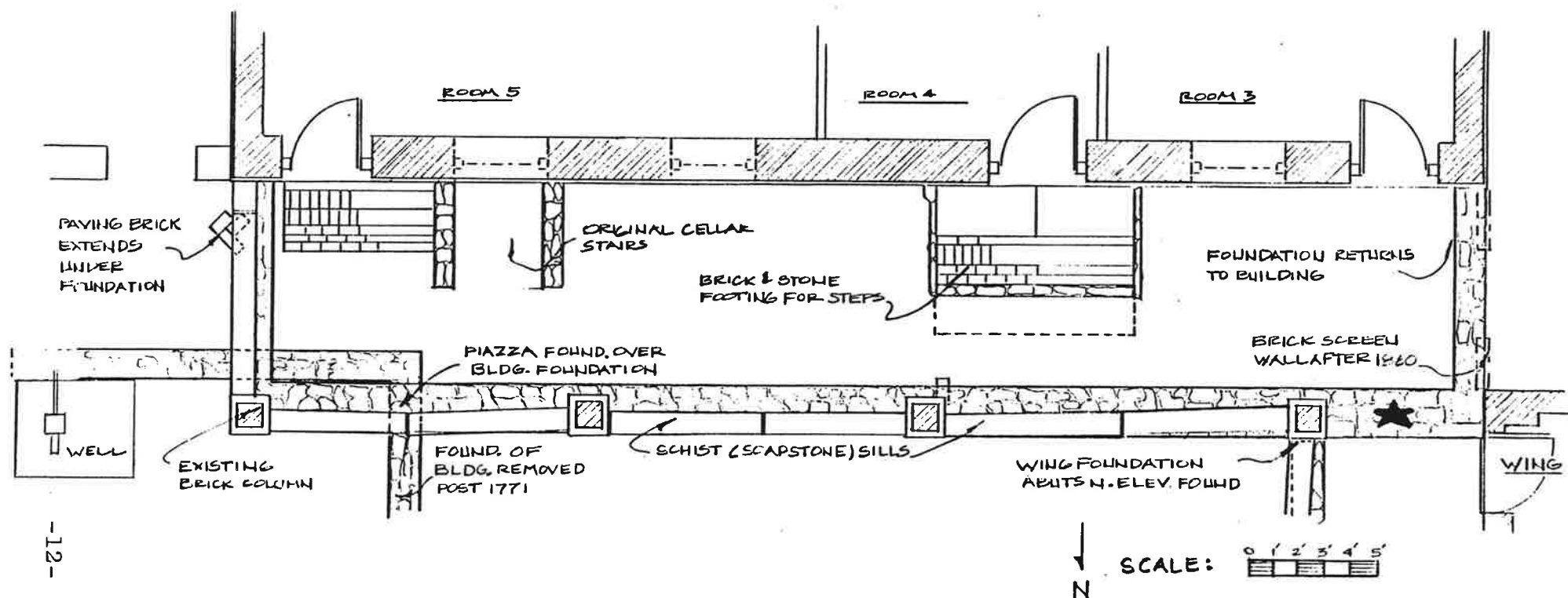


Illustration #58

Plan of Piazza Foundations

The foundations of the piazza and the original building beyond the north-west corner of the house indicate that the foundation was built after 1771, and probably after 1794. It is doubtful that the section of the foundation marked with a star could have been built had the wing existed for it would serve no structural purpose. The wing piazza foundation abuts the foundation of the house porch.

Drawing 6

Illustration Taken from the Stenton Mansion Historic Structure Report

The Building Shell

The privy's shell is constructed of brick. The South and west elevations are laid in Flemish bond with a water table, and the north and east walls are in common bond without one.

The south elevation is the only wall that shows a true consistency in the bond without breaks in the pattern (Photograph 5). This elevation is therefore least suspect of alteration since its original erection.

The west elevation also has a water table base and the same more formal Flemish bond. The water table is made up of a single thickness of brick, four courses with a semi-round cap. It matches that of the south, similarly integrated into the wall brickwork. Photograph 6, however, shows an indication that originally it was only continued within 3 inches of the northwest corner and finished off later. This suggests the possibility of a post originally butting the corner. The Flemish bond, though it predominates, is limited to the right side of the existing entry on the west wall, changing to common bond on the left side of the door jamb and within the gable (Photograph 7). Although the bonds change the other characteristics suggest these two bonds were laid during the same period in all but the upper part of the gable. The width of the brickwork from door jamb to northwest corner limits the use of a Flemish bond. None of the bricks against the left jamb appear to be cut. The brickwork adjacent to the right door jamb not only shows no sign of being roughly cut but utilizes queen closures, following the pattern at the south corner of this elevation and at both corners of the model south wall. The brick



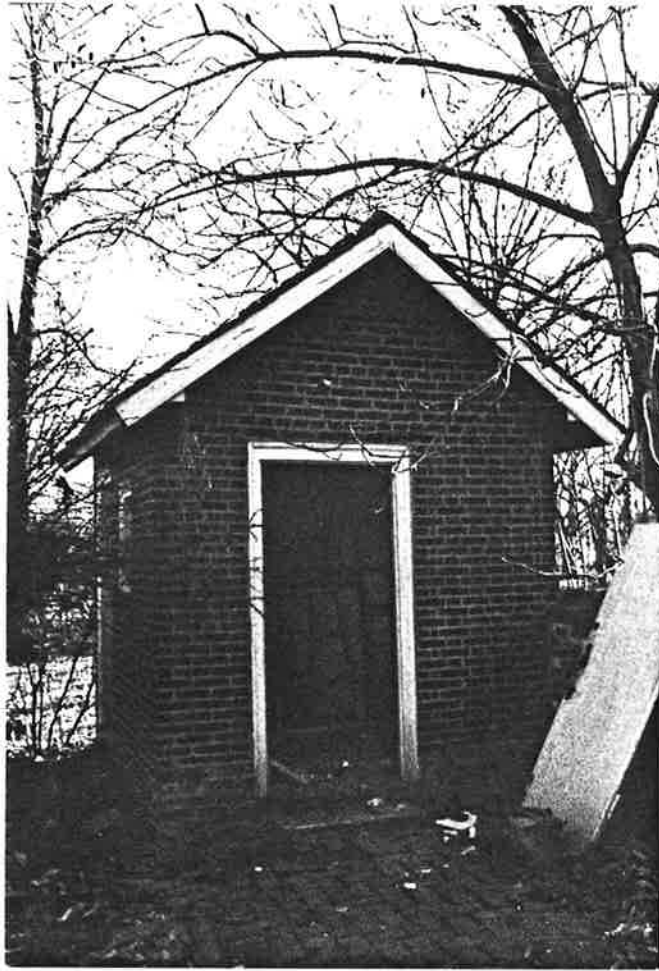
Photograph 5

South Elevation



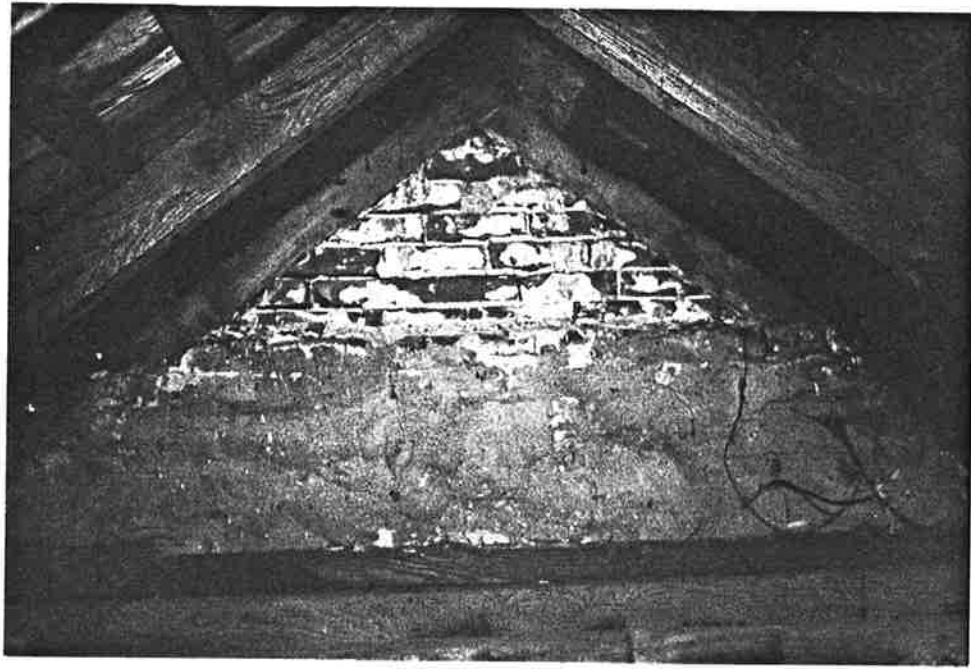
Photograph 6

Northwest Corner showing water table base where the brick configuration suggests originally the last three inches were left unfinished and later patched to match.



Photograph 7
West Elevation

coursework is not laid evenly on the two sides of the doorway. This could have occurred only because the two sections were initially separated by an opening, allowing this miscalculation. The common bond in the gable is the most conspicuous change in brick patterns of the two inconsistencies. In the upper gable, wall thickness narrows from two wythes to a single wythe (Photograph 8). This condition occurs in both upper gables. The brickwork on the exterior slightly protrudes at the elevation of this transition. Mortar analysis taken above and below indicates the two sections were separately constructed. If in fact this upper section of the gable was once left open for ventilation, a

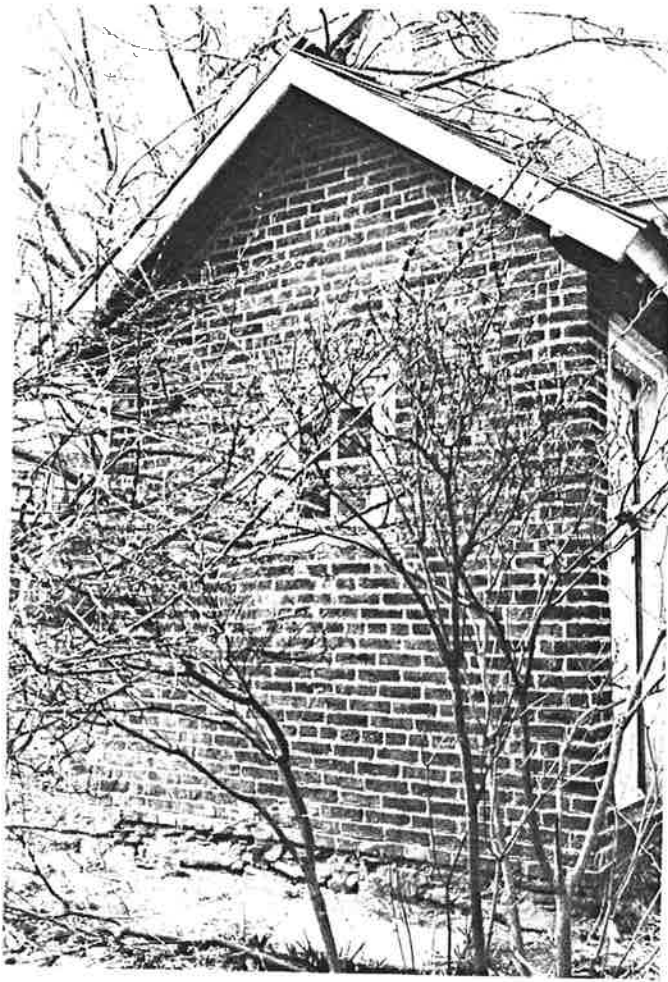


Photograph 8
West Gable Viewed from the Attic Space

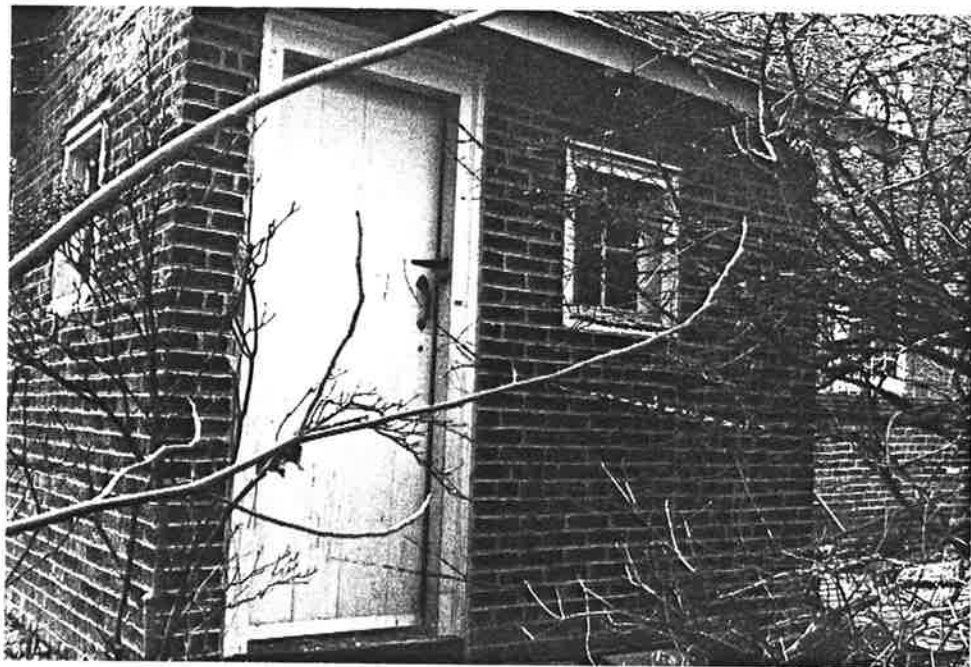
wood louver could have been located here or perhaps the entire gable was hidden behind a clapboard pediment or latticework attached to the front of the gable eaves. This would have allowed for ventilation and hidden the common-laid brickwork in the gable.

If the opening for ventilation was hidden in this manner on the west, it was potentially similar on the east. Because the east was apparently a less important elevation (Photograph 9), the opening would have been more likely left unhidden. The orderly laid brick framing the window on this east elevation suggests it was a part of the original wall fabric. Again the use of common bond would indicate that this elevation was less important than the west and south, both of which must have played a more direct visual role at the time of building.

The north wall contains the most extensive evidence of alterations (Photograph 10). Below the right jamb of the window a



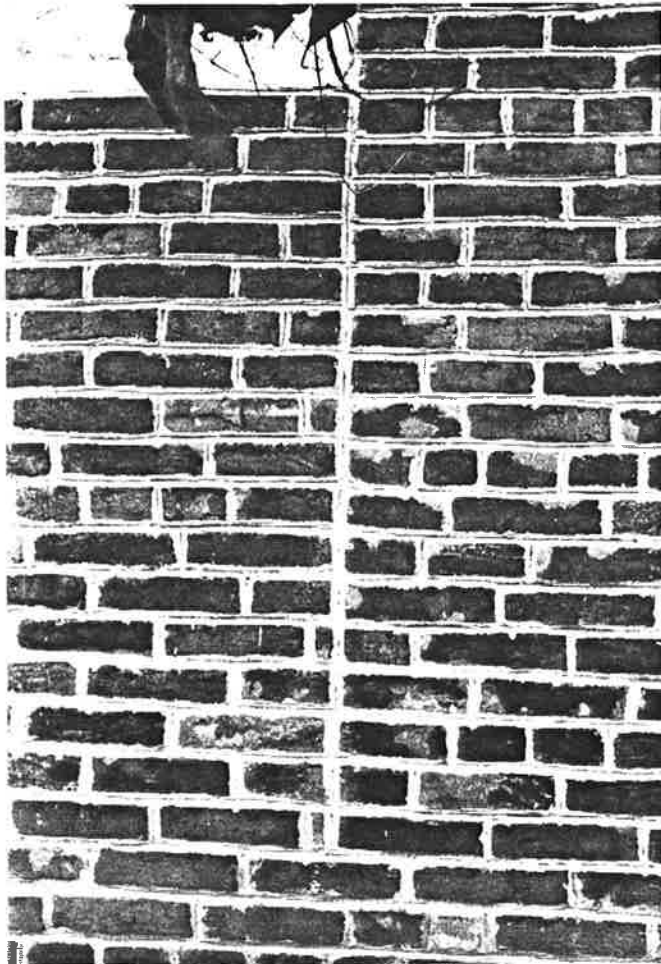
Photograph 9
East Elevation



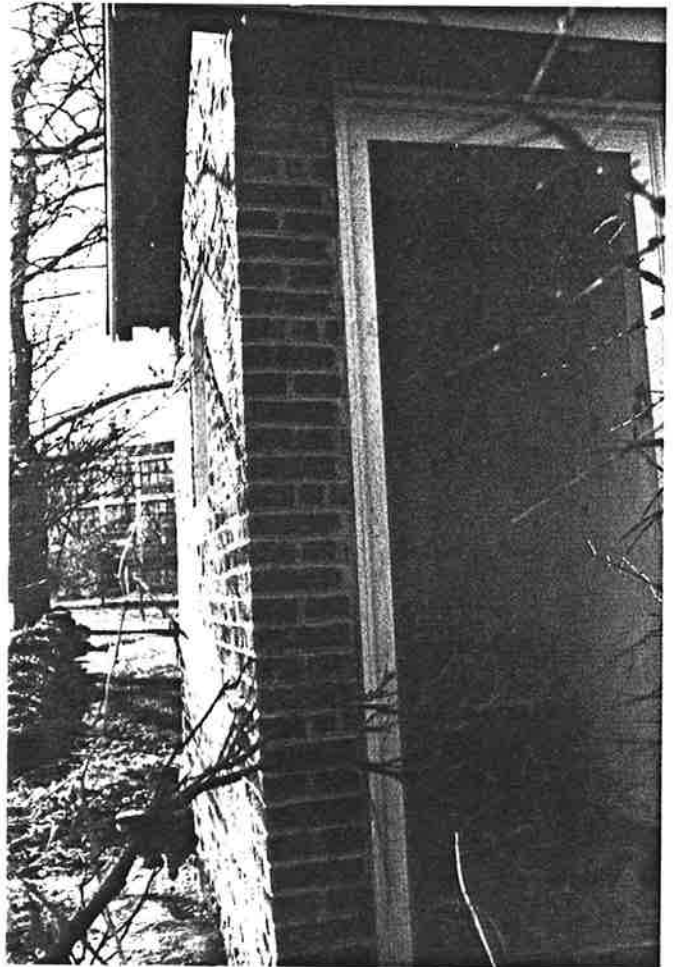
Photograph 10

North Elevation

seam is visible between sections of the brickwork (Photograph 11). This seam continues to interior floor level. On the left jamb of the existing door the bricks have been cut in place to allow for the existing doorway (Photograph 12). The original opening must have been in the center of this elevation with the right jamb at the seam. When the door was moved to the west, the brickwork was cut out, and the old door subsequently filled in.



Photograph 11 North Elevation
Seam Below Right Jamb of Window



Photograph 12 North Elevation
Cut Bricks Adjacent to Left
Door Jamb

Interior Wood Framing, Floors, Partition, Wall, and Ceiling

The existing floor structure is composed of 3" x 5" joists above the pit vault and 3 layers of flooring. The ceiling and roof framing structure is of 3" x 4"s. The partition is a stud wall composed of five 3½" x 3½"s, finished with plaster and lath, like the ceiling. The floor joists span east to west (Drawing 7), and are not pocketed into the brickwork at their ends but rest on the top of the stone foundations. They are sash-sawn (Photograph 13), and are spaced approximately 1'-6" on centers.

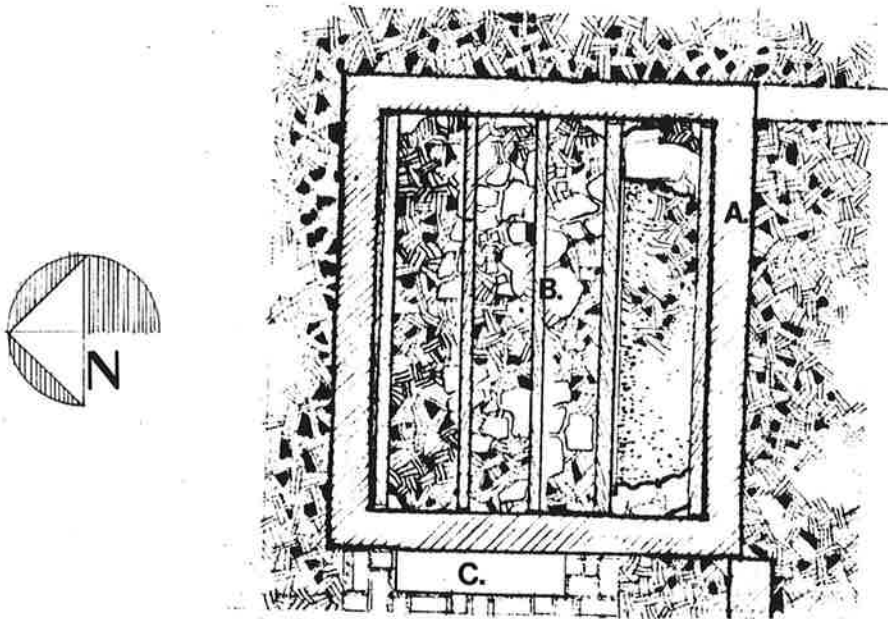
The lower layer of flooring is of 1" x 7" tongue and groove boards (Drawing 8). These floorboards make up a continuous diaphragm spanning over 4 joists, from the north wall to the north edge of the opening over the pit. This floor meets the brick wall along its east, west, and north edges. The individual floorboards interlock in an unusual pattern (Photograph 14). Every other board has two tongues with boards between that are grooved on both sides.

The partition wall was added on top of the first layer of tongue and groove flooring, dividing the space into two rooms (Drawing 9). No baseplate was used. The studs were nailed directly to the floor. Nail samples taken from these connections are of the cut nail type used in the early 1800s. The north and south studs are tight against the brick shell with no plaster between them and the brick (Photograph 15). Plaster and lath was used for finish on both sides of the partition with the exception of a rectangular space left in the lower south corner of the partition and the

STENTON privy

PLAN

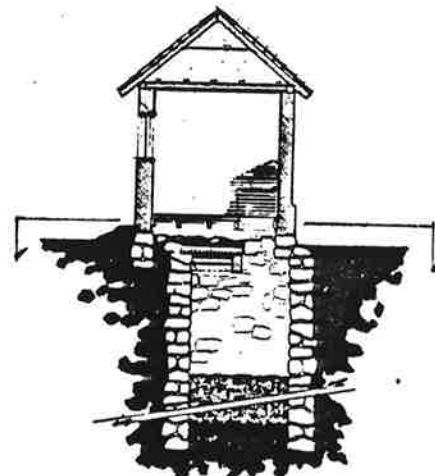
SCALE : $\frac{1}{4}" = 1'-0"$



- A. BRICK PRIVY WALLS
- B. 5/3" x 4" FLOOR JOISTS
- C. STONE STEP AND PAVING BRICKS

This plan shows the start of brick wall construction and floor support system just above ground level. Note floor joists are suspended above the vault of the pit.

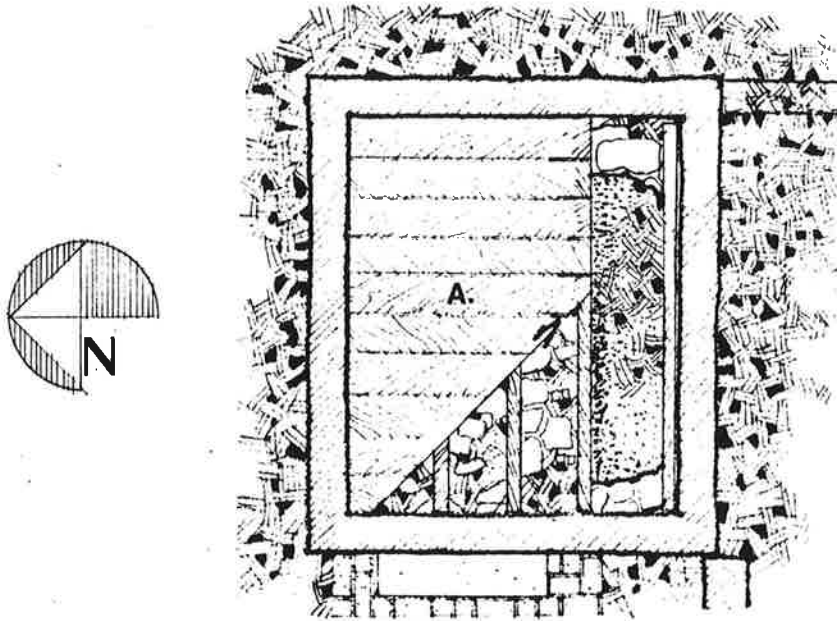
Drawing 7



STENTON PRIVY

PLAN

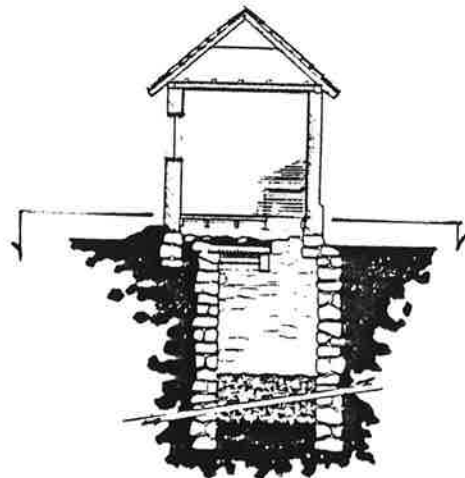
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A. 1" WIDE T&G FLOORING

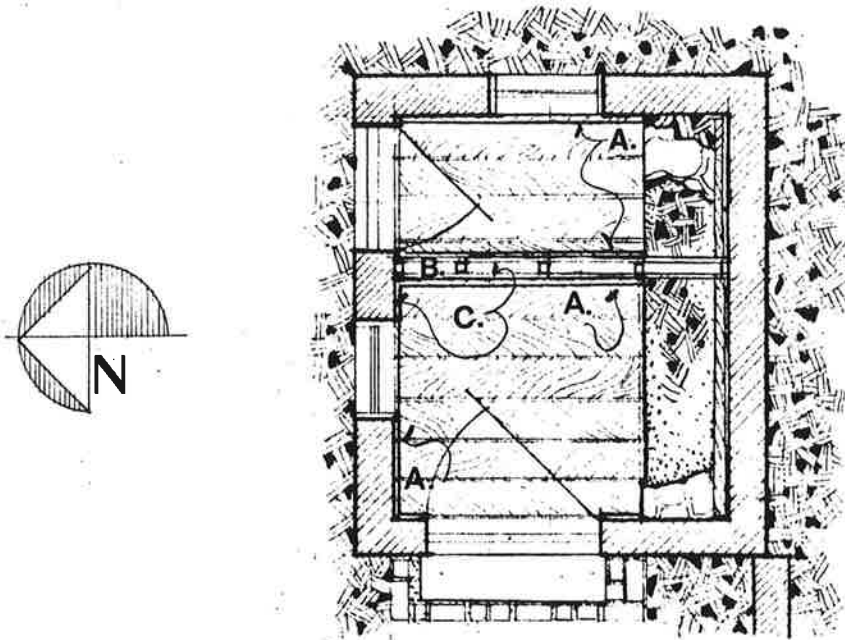
This plan shows the configuration of the first of two layers of flooring.

Drawing 8



STENTON privy

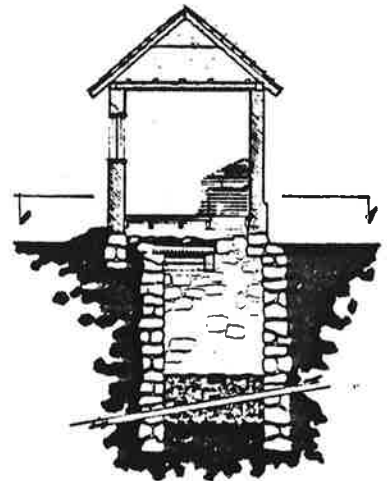
PLAN SCALE : $\frac{1}{4}" = 1'-0"$

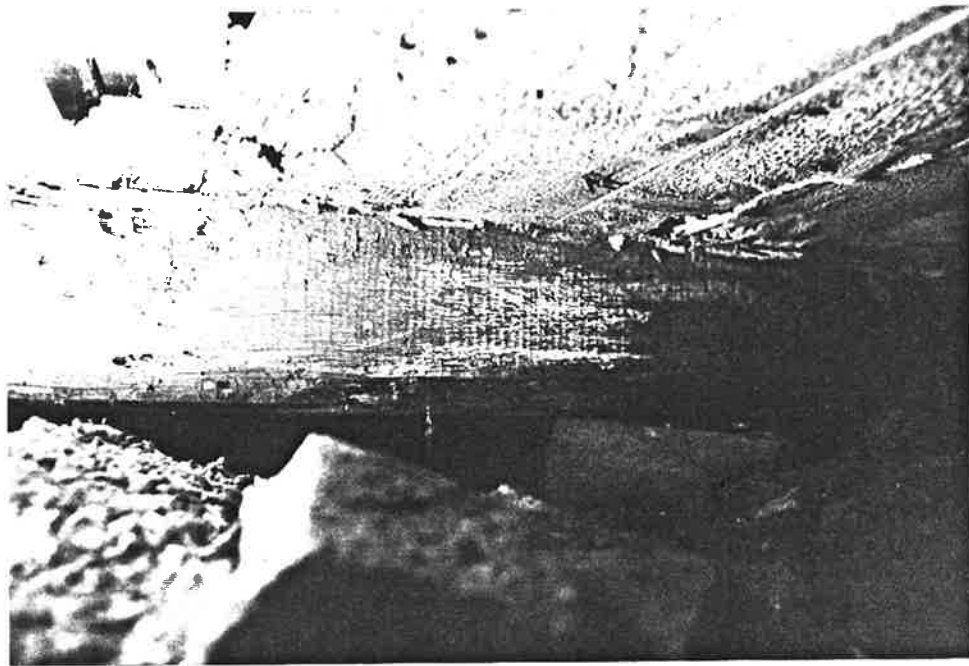


- A. BASEBOARDS
- B. STUD WALL, $5\frac{1}{2}" \times 3\frac{1}{2}"$ STUDS
- C. PLASTER ON ALL WALLS

This drawing shows the partition wall plaster and baseboards. All were introduced before the second level of tongue and groove flooring.

Drawing 9





Photograph 13

Sash Sawn Floor Joist



Photograph 14

View of Tongue and
Groove Flooring



Photograph 15

The Plaster on the South Brick Wall
Ends where the Wood Partition Wall
Intersects

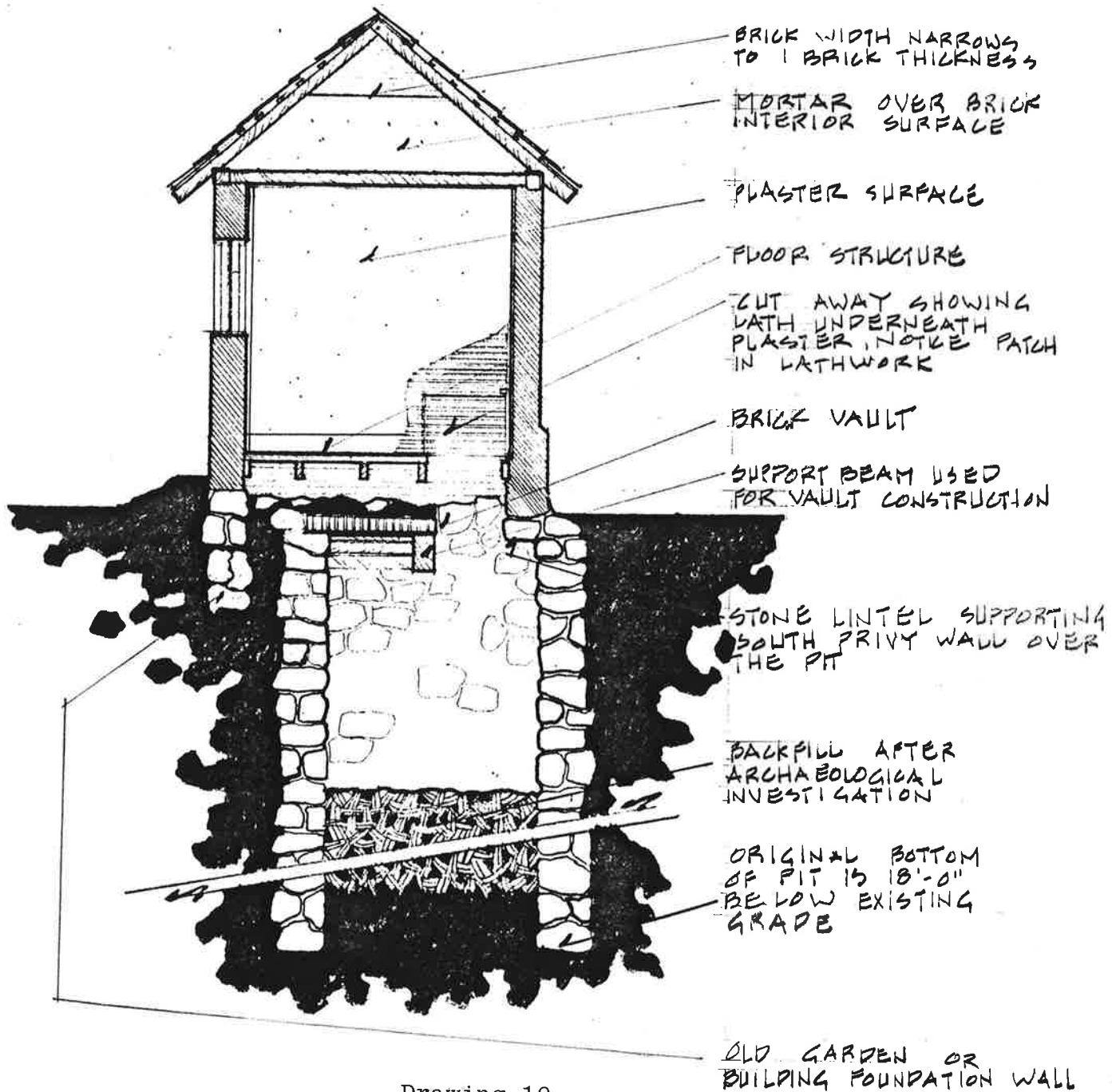
lower south wall surface (Drawing 10). These areas have been plastered later, but the plasterwork indicates that it was done during a different phase (Photograph 16). Behind the patched space a circular sawn stud was used as a nailer for the later lath (Photograph 17). The ceiling and brick walls must have been plastered at the same time as the introduction and finishing of the partition wall. The lath used is both circular small sweep and sash sawn (the former is typical of the 1830s and 1840s). Lath nail samples taken are of the cut nail type used in the first half of the nineteenth century. Baseboards were also installed during this stage since they are set into the plaster. Baseboard nails are representative of those used around 1840. The baseboards originally were introduced along all the edges of the floor except where the bench was built above the pit opening. There are matching baseboards existing over this section presently but they were added later since they butt the original at the floor's edge.

The second layer of flooring is a 1" x 3" tongue and groove system (Drawing 11). These boards form a surface within the baseboards over the first layer, and continue in the east compartment to the south wall cutting off the access to the pit in this room.

The third layer of flooring was apparently added in the larger west compartment to close off the pit when the privy was no longer used as a toilet facility. This layer is plywood. Dr. Liggett removed the sections of this flooring over the pit to gain access to the space below. A layer of plywood still covers the original floor in this compartment.

STENTON privy

NORTH - SOUTH SECTION LOOKING EAST
 SCALE 1 1/4" = 1'-0"

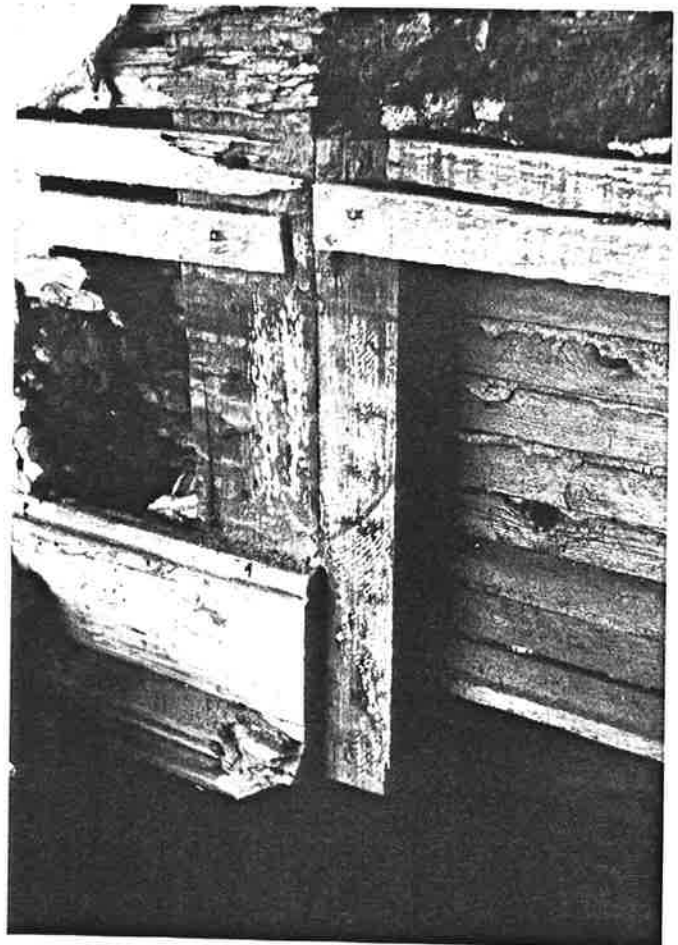


Drawing 10



Photograph 16

The Plasterwork Indicates
Two Phases of Application

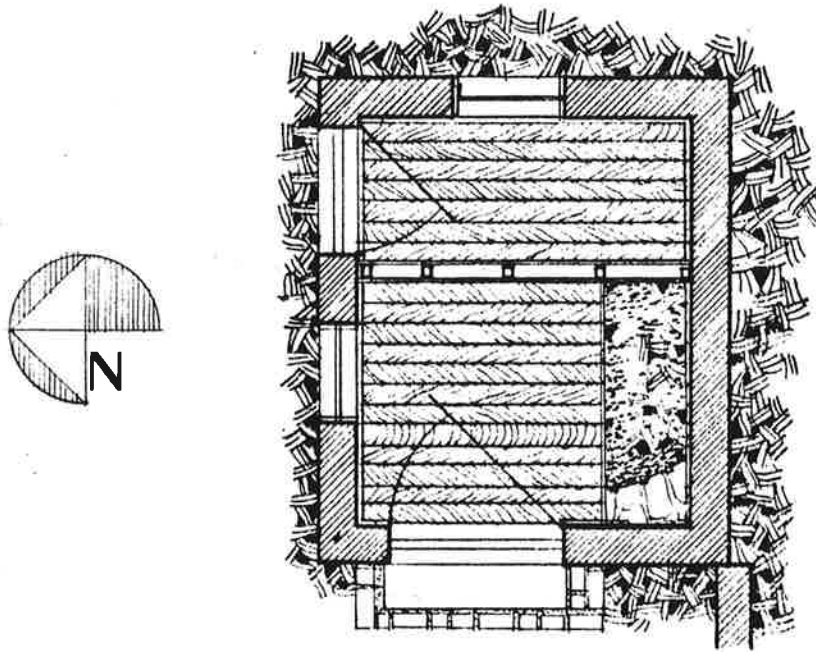


Photograph 17

Circular Large Sweep-sawn
Nailer for Lath Used to
Patch the Hole

STENTON PRIVY

PLAN SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

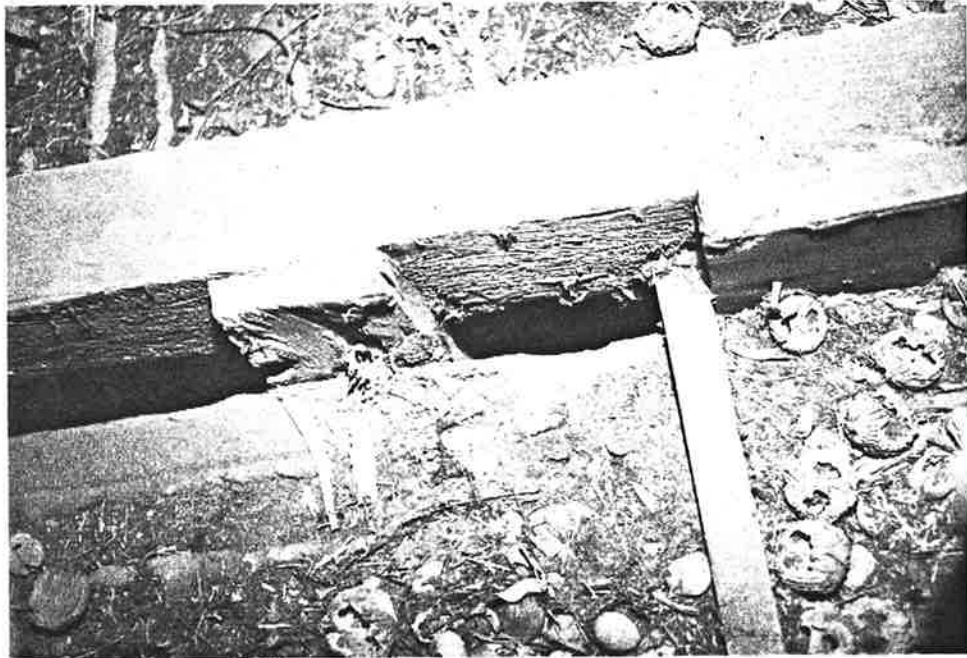


A. 3/4" T & G FLOORING

This plan shows the second layer of tongue and groove flooring, with baseboards and plaster added to the previously open floor and unfinished area.

Drawing 11

The attic framing members, both joists and rafters, are sash sawn 3" x 4"s (Drawings 12 and 13). The joists span between the top of the south and north walls. An extra joist ties the notched tops of the partition studs (Photograph 18). The rafters are positioned above the joists. They are pegged at the peak and nailed to the 3" x 4" sill plates resting on the top of the north and south brick walls. The sill plates extend beyond the east and west walls to allow for two additional pairs of rafters. The joists and rafters are not connected. The shingle lath and starter and ridge boards are sash sawn, positioned to receive 23" shingles (Drawing 14).

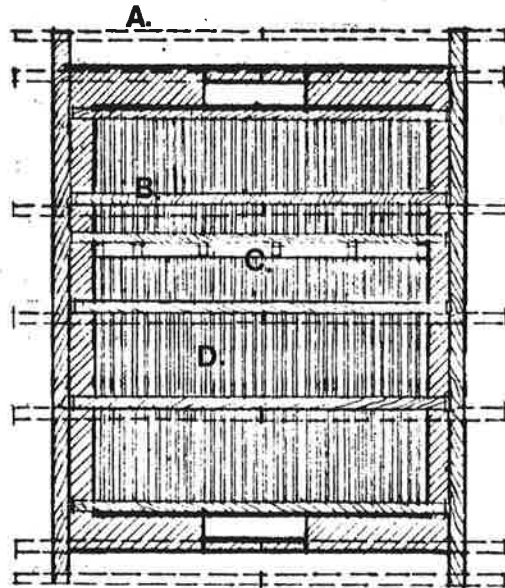
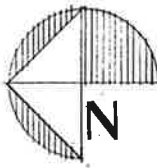


Photograph 18

Partition Wall Stud Connection to Ceiling Joist Above

STENTON privy

PLAN SCALE: $\frac{1}{4}" = 1'-0"$



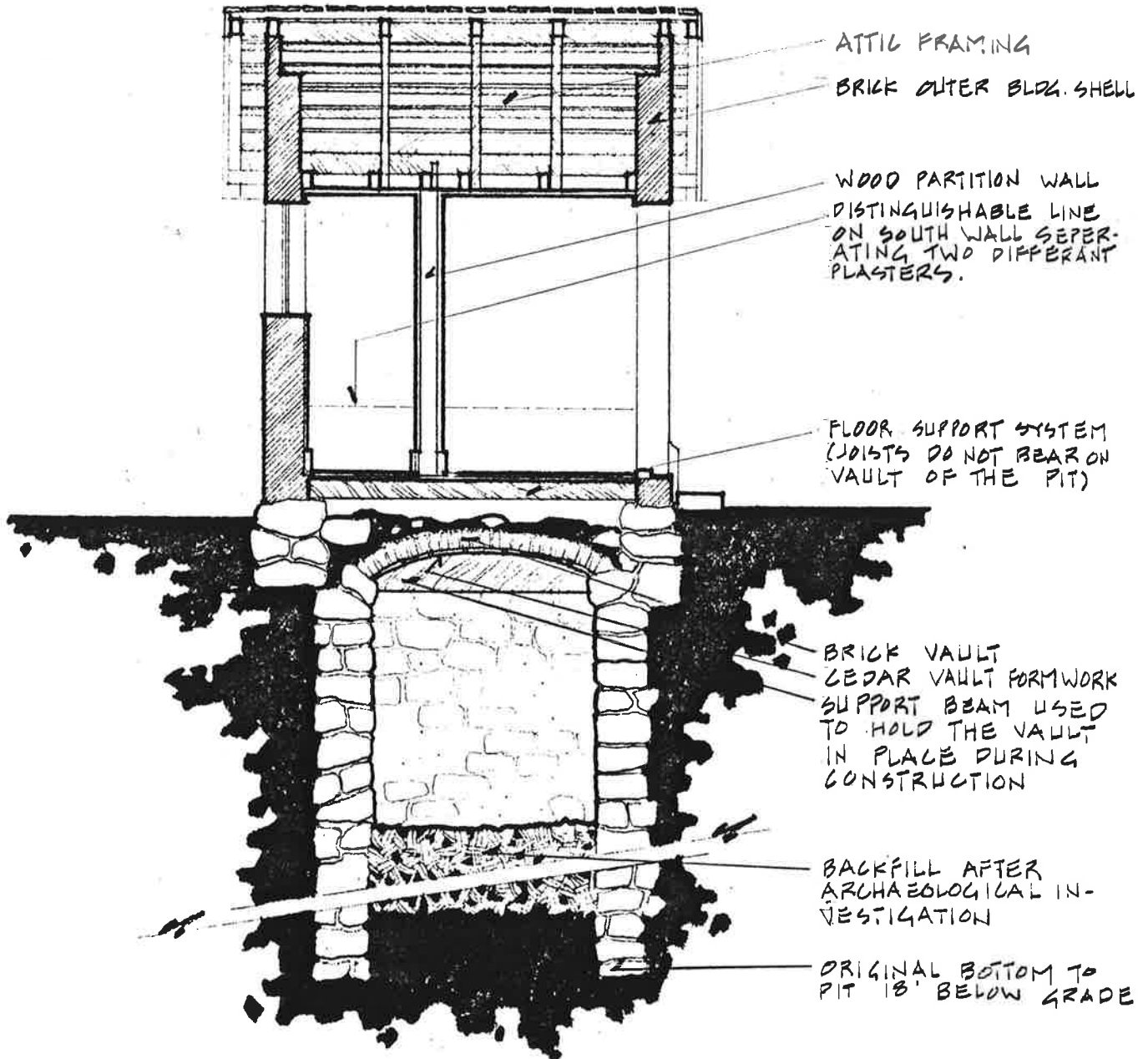
- A. $1\frac{1}{2}" \times 4"$ RAFTERS
- B. $6\frac{1}{2}" \times 4"$ CEILING JOISTS
- C. TOP OF PARTITION WALL
- D. CEILING PLASTER LATH

This plan shows the attic joist and rafter framing.

Drawing 12

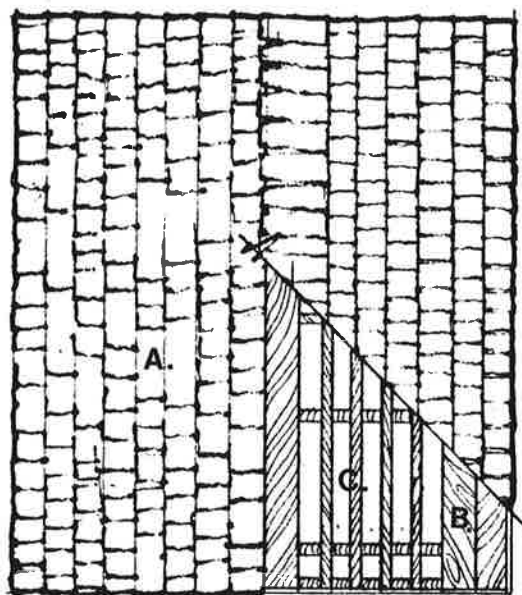
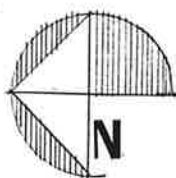
STENTON privy

EAST-WEST SECTION ^{LOOKING SOUTH}
SCALE : 1/4" = 1'-0"



Drawing 13

PLAN SCALE: $\frac{1}{4}" = 1'-0"$



- A. Shingle Roof
- B. Starter Boards
- C. Lath @ $7\frac{1}{2}"$ o.c.

This plan shows the Roof Construction

Drawing 14

II. Original Fabric of the Privy and the Following Phases of Alterations

The privy has gone through three major changes since its original erection. The physical fabric and the Stenton Mansion Historic Structure Report suggest the specific conditions of each of these increments and places them in a relative time frame.

Both the pit and above grade building shell show eighteenth century technology. The milling and nailing techniques imply that initial construction was in the late eighteenth century. The characteristics of the existing north wall brickwork indicate that a doorway was first located in the center of the wall. This location conflicts with the position of the existing partition wall, indicating the central door was a part of the first plan, and the partition an element of the second. The introduction of the partition wall must have required the relocation of the north door for access to the east chamber, and a new window adjacent to it to provide light and air to the west room. The second layer of tongue and groove flooring overlaps the first in a manner indicating that the bench was eliminated from the smaller compartment in a third phase. In the final change the access to the pit was completely sealed off and plywood was laid over the floor of the west compartment.

The following four sections describe in some detail the configuration of the privy in each of its four conditions.

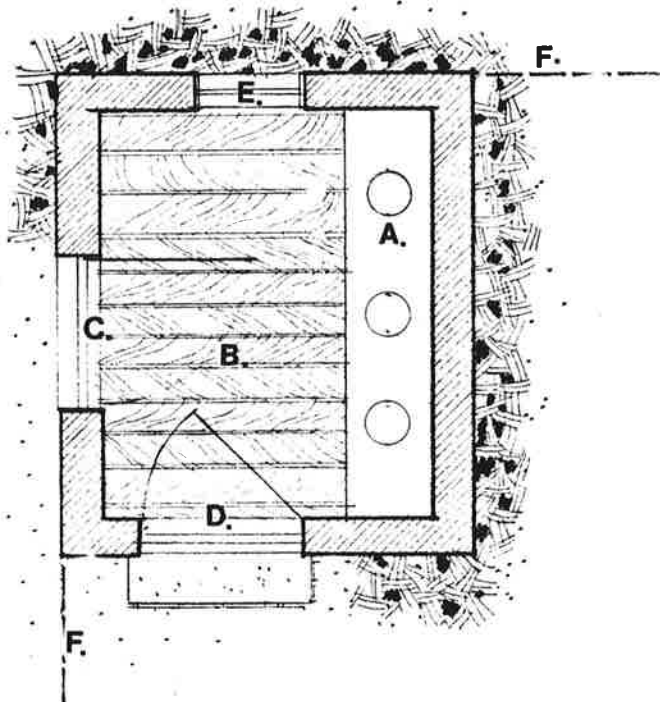
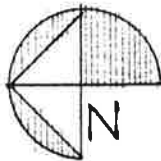
The First Increment (Drawing 15)

The construction of the pit and artifacts found during the archaeological investigation suggest that the pit was dug prior to the nineteenth century. The sash sawn formwork of the pit and hewn-beam could date to early or late 1700s. All of the privy's framing members in the floor and attic are sash sawn. The nails found in the framing are also of types that were being produced in the eighteenth century. The nails found in the above grade construction were typically manufactured and used in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. The Stenton Mansion Historic Structure Report dates the demolition of the walls using the early foundation to post-1771 if a building foundation; and if a garden wall to post-1784. Because the existing privy shell was built on top of the old foundation we can be sure that the above grade shelter was constructed after 1784. Although no substantial evidence proves that the pit was not dug before that for an earlier light frame shelter within an existing wall enclosure, no remaining traces of a first shelter remain. This is contrary to what one would expect when rebuilding a structure of virtually the same size. Additionally, archaeological investigation has discovered what is assumed to be an early eighteenth century privy in the courtyard (see Drawing 4), which would have at least provided the necessary facilities for 50 or 60 years. The presence of an original privy with a sizeable vault would eliminate the need for another outhouse probably until the end of the 1700s. In the analysis of foundation configurations we found the

STENTON privy

PLAN SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

THE FIRST INCREMENT



- A. PRIVY BENCH
- B. 1ST LAYER TONGUE & GROOVE FLOORING
- C. NORTH ENTRY
- D. WEST ENTRY
- E. WINDOW
- F. POSSIBLE FENCE LOCATION

Initial layout of the privy
based on the physical evidence
found.

Drawing 15

privy's water table to rest on soil at approximately the same elevation as the first piazza foundation which the Mansion's Historic Structure report dates to around 1800.

It makes reasonable sense that the existing privy was constructed around the 1800s with the piazza, after whatever eastern dependency and its associated privy had been demolished. It would have moved the necessary closer to the main house where it was needed and take on the desirably inconspicuous position in the landscape.

The privy in plan in this increment would have appeared without the partition wall and with a central north door as in Drawing 15. The first layer of flooring and characteristics of the plaster and baseboards indicate a bench was across the entire south wall. Apparently the walls were left unfinished prior to the introduction of the partition wall. No traces were found of whitewash or plaster on the brick behind the studs. If indeed the gables were open for ventilation, it would have been necessary to leave the ceiling open to the gables.

The resulting entry configuration is particularly interesting. This plan does not allow for an interior subdivision of the space, which suggests that access from two sides was a solution to a circulation condition produced by an exterior barrier between the two openings. The existing garden wall was added later, butting the southwest corner of the privy (Photograph 19). The discovery of the unusual north and east foundation walls and the use of the more formal Flemish bond on the south and west, in addition to visualizing the absence of the existing



Photograph 19

Southwest Corner Connection to
Existing Garden Wall Showing
Butt Joint

garden wall, indicate that during this first increment the privy was located in the corner of the east yard of the main house. Mrs. Linn P. Brown, an author who has extensively studied privies, suggests this corner location with vegetable gardens adjacent was characteristic. The evidence of a post possibly butting the northwest corner (described in Part II, Photograph 6) suggests the type of fence construction that probably separated the two entries. If the fence did continue from this corner toward the main house parallel to the north elevation, its alignment would have corresponded with the posts that supported the first piazza roof (Drawing 6 indicates the first set of columns would have been set in toward the house from the existing brick columns).

The Second Increment (Drawing 16)

The partition wall was added and the north wall door was changed between 1830 and 1850. Although the studs in the partition wall frame are sash sawn, the lath is a mixture of sash and circular small sweep sawn members. (The circular saw technology was implemented in the first half of the nineteenth century to cut small lumber. It was not until mid-century that the larger circular saw was used to cut timbers.)

The partition wall was built around the bench. With the division of the privy came the plastering of all interior wall and ceiling surfaces. The baseboards were added at this time as well. Closing off the ceiling would consequentially have destroyed the natural ventilation system. The brickwork during this phase must have been continued in a single brick thickness to the peak.

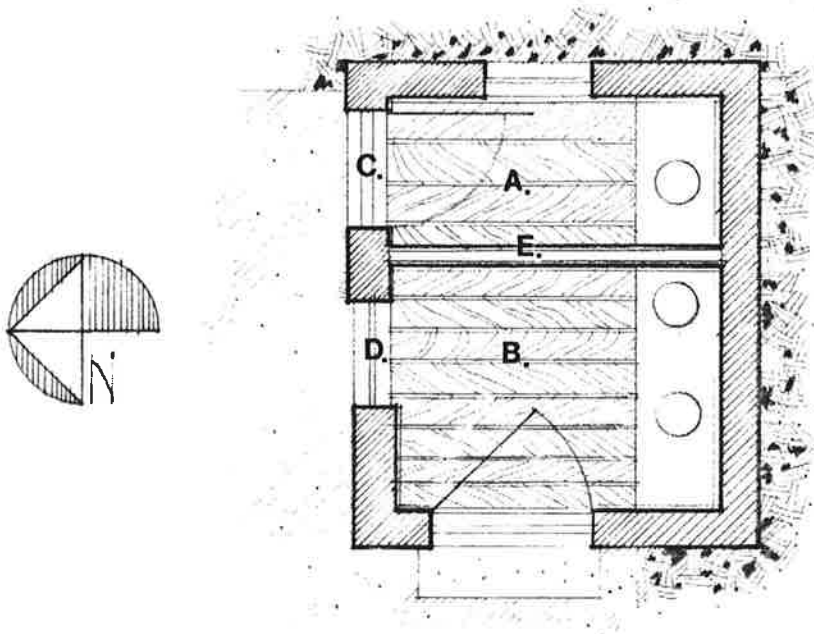
The alterations of this increment created two privy chambers. The double access was preserved in this case because of an interior barrier rather than exterior. The compartmentalization would have served to create more privacy, separate the sexes, or delineate in some other way between the users. The door and room configuration no longer confirms the existence of an exterior barrier. We know from an 1861 photograph that the existing garden wall had been built by then, probably as part of this second increment.

A 1907 Cope and Stewardson plan of the existing conditions at Stenton confirms our interpretation of the privy's layout in this phase (Drawing 17). In addition to confirming our evaluation, this record also indicates this configuration was retained into the twentieth century.

STENTON privy

PLAN SCALE : 1/4" = 1'-0"

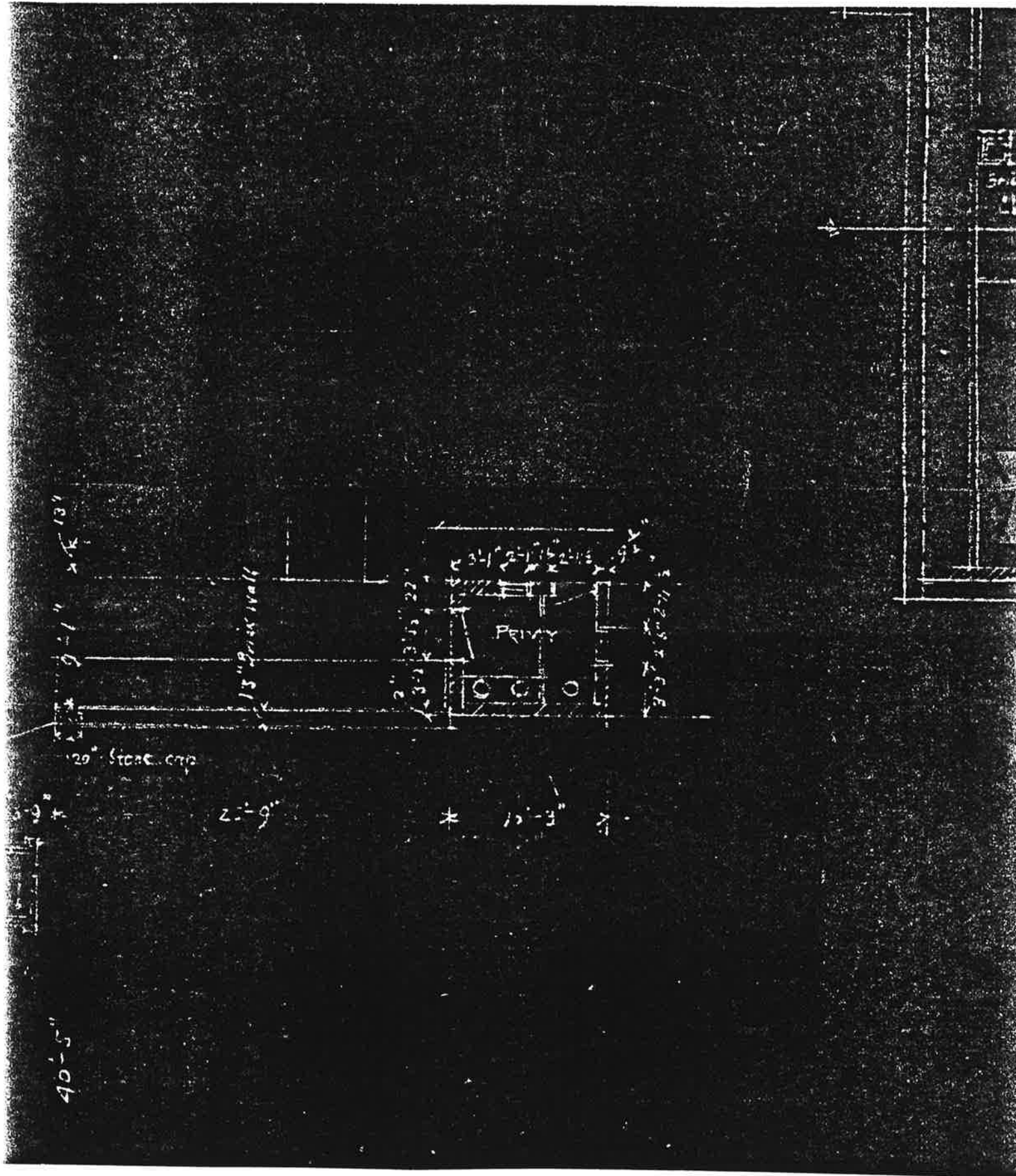
THE SECOND INCREMENT



- A. EAST COMPARTMENT
- B. WEST COMPARTMENT
- C. NEW NORTH ENTRY
- D. NEW NORTH WINDOW
- E. NEW PARTITION WALL

The frame partition wall, built around the bench and the alterations to the north wall separated the original privy plan into two rooms.

Drawing 16



Drawing 17

Cope and Stewardson Plan - 1907

Third Increment (Drawing 18)

The third plan varies only slightly from the second. In this phase the east chamber was turned into a storage room. We know that this room no longer served as a privy because the existing 1" x 3" tongue and groove flooring extends to the south wall over the area which had been under the bench.

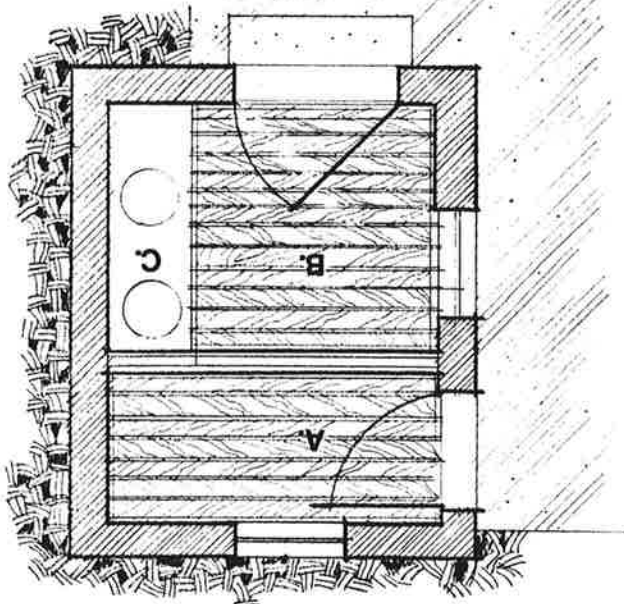
We know from the records of the Colonial Dames that toilet facilities were not introduced in the west wing until 1925 and not installed in the caretaker's quarters until 1931. There is mention of alterations to the outhouse in 1921. Though the datable physical evidence is minimal in these later years, the diminishing need for the privy logically corresponds with its change in use. The 1921 alterations were probably this third increment. The main chamber, with its more direct accessibility to the main house, would have been the rational privy room to have provided the yet needed facilities.

Fourth Increment

The plywood flooring in the west chamber must have been laid after the toilet facilities were introduced in the west wing. Plywood technology was developed before the second World War and therefore could have been put in any time after the first modern plumbing was installed.

PLAN SCALE = 1/4" = 1'-0"

THE THIRD INCREMENT



A. EAST COMPARTMENT
B. WEST COMPARTMENT
C. DOUBLE SEATER

The east compartment was turned into a storage room when the second layer of flooring was added.

Drawing 18

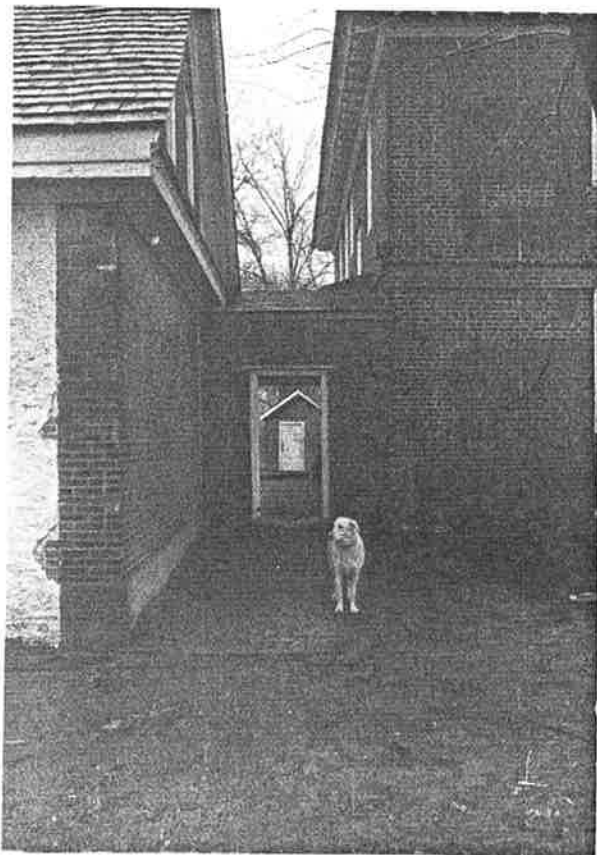
CHRONOLOGY CHART

Pre-1771	Existence of an east wing in the courtyard
Pre-1784	Existence of a privy in connection with the east wing
By 1771	Removal of the east wing
By 1784	Removal of the garden walls
c. 1800	First Increment Construction of the standing privy
1830-40	Second Increment Construction of brick piazza columns Compartmentalization of privy Introduction of existing garden wall
1921	Third Increment Elimination of bench in east compartment
Post-1926	Fourth Increment Elimination of bench in west compartment

III. Conclusions

Understanding the characteristics of the original privy fabric and its subsequent phases of alteration reinforces the possibility of an eastern dependency and gives us additional insight into the living patterns of the Logans. We can also recognize through this investigation the rather unhibited use of the eighteenth century privy in contrast to the more class-conscious organization of the Victorian era.

The physical evidence suggests that the existing building was originally designed to serve both the main house and the activities occurring on the property north of the privy. Photograph 20 shows the formal position of the privy and its west door in the context of the main house and kitchen wing.



Photograph 20

View of the Privy across
the Piazza from the West

The Flemish bond brick treatment of the south and west walls does emphasize the initial importance placed on the yard in the foreground, and the view of the privy from this yard and the main house. The west entry was used by the Logans and by visitors. The east main house stair would have provided access from all levels to the kitchen door and out to the privy. In the Historic Structure Report, Reed Engle mentions a previous partition wall in the kitchen that would have at one time provided privacy for the circulation from the small winding east stair to the exterior door and beyond to the outhouse. The somewhat primitive ventilation system was at a later date superseded by the benefit of a finished interior that could be kept clean.

In addition to the value the privy has in explaining the living patterns of the Logan family, we must also recognize the value this privy has as representative of early American necessities. Outbuildings of various types have been unfortunately poorly documented in the past despite their crucial importance in understanding the patterns of eighteenth and nineteenth century living. The restoration of the Stenton Privy becomes, therefore, not only important to the preservation of the Mansion but a potential step towards understanding the domestic history of Philadelphia in the Victorian era.

IV. Recommendations

The restoration of the Privy at Stenton will be relatively inexpensive, and will not achieve the gracious dignity that has become a characteristic of Stenton Mansion, but the restoration period selected and its interpretation to visitors will be a key to the significance given to the Mansion. Because a number of value judgments must be made before the restoration can be decided upon, the goals and objectives of the responsible administrators will be visible in the privy. Essentially, the judgments involve selecting which of the four increments described above should be restored, and one must consider both the possibility of future archaeological study revealing a significant early relationship of a dependency to the first increment of the privy, or the gain of a richer and more interesting stage of development in the second increment.

Restoration of the first increment would be dramatic in its simplicity, and would assist in understanding an early dependency if some time in the future more is known about it. It would be roughly contemporary with the wood posts of the piazza and the earliest stage of the kitchen wing and the pump. Perhaps most important, however, is that it would not inhibit the restoration of an eighteenth century agricultural landscape of gardens and fences and long-forgotten flowers which we can only imagine. Someday archaeologists with greater knowledge and sophistication will be able to reconstruct such vanished ecologies from subtle traces we cannot see at present.

On the other hand, restoration of the first increment requires demolition of much historic fabric; the plaster, the partition and the present north door, on the basis of our understanding of somewhat tenuous evidence. We have good reason to believe, for example, that the upper part of the brick gables were built after the first increment, but whether the holes were filled with louvres or were screened by wood trim under a projecting roof as suggested above there is no way to tell. The partition itself is most interesting as evidence of early Victorian modesty or class-consciousness, and its retention would allow access to the pit and vaulting through the eastern room, while the western room could show the neatly plastered room and painted seat of the second increment. The existing brick garden wall was unquestionably added long after the privy was built, and forms a senseless intrusion in the restoration of the first increment, but until more is understood about the history of the eastern lawn, the wall should not be removed.

So the choice of restoration period is essentially a matter of policy. If the piazza will have its brick piers removed and the hip roof restored; if an on-going archaeological study of the east lawn is anticipated, and the emphasis will be on William Logan and George's farm, then the first increment can be undertaken. It will be more costly than the later phase, but if adequate records of the existing condition are made, in drawings and photographs, the removal of the partition can be justified. If emphasis will be placed on Deborah Logan, and it will be hard to ignore her, then the simple repair of the existing building will be appropriate. Access to the pit and vault would add greatly to its interest.

APPENDIX I

MORTAR ANALYSIS

MOULTAR ANALYSIS DATA

JOB STENTON PRIVY

Sample Number: #1

Material: Pointing Mortar Main Brick Shell

Location: Interior West Wall

I. % COMPOSITION
BY WEIGHT

% By Volume

CLAY	15.6	x 6 = 93.6	2
SAND	53.9	x 1 = 53.9	1½
LIME	30.4	x 1.5 = 45.6	1

II. % RETAINED

99.5

#10 SIEVE (2.00 MM)

4.7

#20 SIEVE (0.84 MM)

11.6

#60 SIEVE (0.250 MM)

66.1

Retained (Pan)

17

MORTAR ANALYSIS DATA

JOB STENTON PRIVY

Sample Number: #2

Material: Stone Foundation Wall Bedding Mortar Found under Privy Foundation

Location: Northwest Corner

I. % COMPOSITION
BY WEIGHT

% by Volume

CLAY	20	x 6 = 120	3
SAND	50	x 1 = 50	1
LIME	30	x 1.5 = 45	1

II. % RETAINED

99

#10 SIEVE (2.00 MM) 5.7

#20 SIEVE (0.84 MM) 8.5

#60 SIEVE (0.250 MM) 53.8

Retained (Pan) 31.9

MORTAR ANALYSIS DATA

JOB STENTON PRIVY

Sample Number: #3

Material: Stone Foundation Privy South Wall

Location: Adjacent to Northwest Subsurface Foundation Wall

I. % COMPOSITION
BY WEIGHT

% by Volume

CLAY 14.5

x 6 = 87 2

SAND 56.4

x 1 = 56.4 1½

LIME 29

x 1.5 = 43.5 1

II. % RETAINED

99

#10 SIEVE (2.00 MM)

5.7

#20 SIEVE (0.84 MM)

15.9

#60 SIEVE (0.250 MM)

48.28

Retained (Pan)

30

MORTAR ANALYSIS DATA

JOB STENTON PRIVY

Sample Number: #4

Material: Brick Pointing Sample

Location: Upper West Gable

I. % COMPOSITION
BY WEIGHT

CLAY 9.2

SAND 71.6

LIME 19.2

% by Volume

x 6 = 55 2

x 1 = 71.6 3½

x 1.5 = 28.8 1

II. % RETAINED

#10 SIEVE (2.00 MM)

#20 SIEVE (0.84 MM)

#60 SIEVE (0.250 MM)

Retained (Pan)

99
2.15
8.9
59
30.8

MC&TAR ANALYSIS DATA

JOB STENTON PRIVY

Sample Number: #5
Material: Bedding Mortar Existing Garden Wall Foundation
Location: East Corner at Intersection with Southwest Privy Corner

I. % COMPOSITION
BY WEIGHT

	% by Volume
CLAY 27.87	x 6 = 167.2 12
SAND 62.6	x 1 = 62.6 4
LIME 9.6	x 1.5 = 14.4 1

II. % RETAINED

#10 SIEVE (2.00 MM)	5.7
#20 SIEVE (0.84 MM)	13.8
#60 SIEVE (0.250 MM)	50.5

Retained (Pan) 30

MORTAR ANALYSIS DATAJOB STENTON PRIVY

Sample Number: #6

Material: Brick Pit of Arch Mortar

Location: Under Floor of Privy above Hewn Beam

I. % COMPOSITION
BY WEIGHT

% by Volume

CLAY	5.54	x 6	=	33.24	1
SAND	72.8	x 1	=	72.8	2
LIME	21.6	x 1.5	=	32.4	1

II. % RETAINED

99.8

#10 SIEVE (2.00 MM) 6

#20 SIEVE (0.84 MM) 13.7

#60 SIEVE (0.250 MM) 68.1

Retained (Pan) 12

APPENDIX II

PAINT ANALYSIS

PAINT ANALYSISSTENTON PRIVYINTERIORInterior South Plaster Wall, West Compartment

	<u>F & H</u>
Plaster Base	
Peach	2227 W
White	2241 W
Gray-green	2547 M
Gray-green	2697 M
White	2241 W
Gray	2292 M
Light Gray	2291 M

Interior East Plaster Wall, East Compartment

	<u>F & H</u>
Plaster Base	
Peach	2227 W
White	2241 W
Gray-green	2547 M
Gray-green	2697 M
White	2241 W
Yellow	2318 M
White	2241 W
Light Olive	2548 M
Light Brown	2691 W

INTERIORInterior Door Color (East Compartment)

	<u>F & H</u>
White	2241 W
Yellow	2318 M
White	2241 W
Yellow-brown	2378 M
Brown	2250 A
Dark Brown	2545 A

Interior West Window Frame

	<u>F & H</u>
White	2146 W
White	2146 W
Tan	2322 M
White	2146 W
Brown	2250 A
Dark Brown	2545 A

PAINT ANALYSIS

STENTON PRIVY

EXTERIOR

Exterior West Window Frame

F & H

Dark Brown Prime	2250 A
Light Yellow	2361 W
Olive	2440 D
Tan	2337 M
Brown-green	2440 D
Gray-green	2692 M
Light Brown	2372 M
Dark Olive	2649 D
Tan	2337 M
White	2146 W
White	2146 W
White	2146 W

Gable Trim

F & H

Dark Olive	2649 D
Tan	2337 M
White	2146 W
White	2146 W
White	2146 W